

FINAL
Manure Task Force Meeting
August 24, 2005, DATCP, Madison

Task Force members in attendance:

Steve Born, Co-chair	Richard Gorder
Brian Rude, Co-chair	Andrew Hansen
Ken Blomberg	Wally Lueder
Dan Brick	Rebecca Power
Lisa Conley	Jay Richardson
Kevin Connors	Bob Selk
Dana Cook	Monte Wick
Dan Fischer	

Also in attendance: Approximately 30 agency staff and other interested parties.

The second meeting of the Manure Management Task Force was called to order at 9:35 a.m. and roll call was taken.

**Motion by Fischer, second by Selk, to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2005, meeting.
Motion carried.**

Co-chair Rude reviewed today's agenda—no additional agenda items were added. Comments from members were then solicited on the results of the opinion survey. It was pointed out that it was mainly an interest survey to be used as a starting point, and it needs work to further examine the issues.

Action Items:

Task Force Members:

- Get additional framework tools to Richard Castelnovo by September 6 and review Decision-making Framework draft to evaluate means and options before next meeting.

Co-chairs:

- Revise Decision-making Framework with staff and distribute another draft for review by Task Force members.

DATCP/DNR Staff:

- Send to members the additional framework tools noted later in these minutes and collect additional tools (Castelnovo). With co-chairs, revise the Decision-making Framework and distribute another draft for review to members.
- Arrange meeting locations in Tomah (September 26) and Oshkosh (October 20).
- See "Future Presentation Ideas" at the end of minutes and arrange for presentations at the next meeting(s).

Practices and Trends: Farm Management and Manure Handling—Ed Odgers, Section Chief, Conservation Engineering Section, DATCP

See PowerPoint handout entitled “*Manure Management Objectives*”

Odgers’ presentation focused on dairy manure management and its affect on the landscape and water quality. A survey done in 1995 and updated in 2004 showed that the majority of farms have increased manure storage. The study, however, does not look at specific issues of today, i.e., over application of manure, winter spreading, improper storage/stacking and untreated animal lots. Odgers described the types of manure management systems, what factors figure into a system, and why they do what they do, namely, size of farm, housing selection (bedding), storage options, labor and equipment, land availability and cost of production. Land-based manure management works most of the times but need solutions to fix it the few times it breaks down. The Task Force’s responsibility is to figure out how to deal with the problem but still keep farms competitive. By 2008 all farms will be required to have nutrient management plans with a cost-sharing component. The following handouts were discussed: A document entitled “*Rule Making Timelines for ATCP 50, ATCP 51 and NR 243*” and a spreadsheet entitled “*What is Required Under State and Local Laws.*” Besides cost sharing to farmers, incentives to recreational landowners were discussed.

Role of Conservation Planning in Risk Management—Kevin Connors, Director, Dane County Land and Water Resources Department

See PowerPoint handout entitled “*Conservation Planning*”

Connors’ presentation was divided into four categories: What is a conservation plan?; why/how is a conservation plan developed?; how do we know if a conservation plan is implemented and/or maintained?; and a summary.

Farmer Presentation—Karl Klessig with Saxon Homestead Farm

See PowerPoint handout entitled “*It Can Happen to You Too!*”

Klessig explained what happened to cause a manure spill at his farm in Cleveland, Manitowoc County, on June 22, 2002. He circulated a newspaper article regarding the spill and the citation he was issued because of it. Saxon Homestead Farm is a rotational grazing farm and is in a CAFO having approximately 850 animal units. All agricultural land in Manitowoc County is tiled, and Klessig explained that tiling is done on fields that do not drain themselves. Tile lines are installed three to four feet deep and carry surface and sub-surface water out of the field. Surface spreading of manure is done on their clay-loam soil because manure injection gets it closer to the tile line. Klessig then described Saxon Homestead Farm’s corrective actions and management changes to prevent a similar incident.

Group Discussion: Framework for Evaluating Options

Task Force members received a spreadsheet entitled “Decision-making Framework” with a list of means and options under the following headings: Research and Development/Emerging Technologies, Incentives, Information and Education, Regulation, Planning, Data Collection, Emergency Management and Other. The co-chairs asked members to add to the list, under each heading, tools to deal with manure management. In the discussion the following additional tools were suggested:

Research and Development (R&D)/Emerging Technologies

- Energy systems—bio-industry
- Cooperative/regional manure management
- Innovative Treatment Systems
 - Regional filter presses
- Liquid vs. solid alternative management systems
- Establish (outline) R&D grant program and recommend initiatives
- Manure spreading index/advisory (I&E?)
- Key factors—genesis of incidents
 - WBI
- BMP water quality (WQ) evaluation using WQ criteria
 - WBI
 - Research
- Role of tile system

Incentives

- Green-tier recognition/certification on manure management
- Health care incentive for manure management compliance
- Tax incentive to receive manure
- Fee waiver (i.e., waive permit fee if farmer attends a workshop)
- Safe harbor if following standards (higher level expected)

Information and Education (I&E)

- Roll out of R&D findings
- Educational materials/workshop for new technologies
- Public education on farming and environmental dynamics

Regulation

- Limits on winter manure spreading practices
- Other practices (some from NR243, conservation planning) could be included in manure management regulations
- Certification of manure haulers/applicators/landowners
 - Who is covered and how?
- Duration of storage required, I&E, C/S
- Record keeping
 - Maintain plan information
 - Confidentiality of records
 - Sanctions (590/ATCP50/NR243)
- Coordination of rules and regulations (simpler is better)
- Local regulation

Planning

- Relate manure management to water quality objectives (TMDLs, Green Tier, ISO)
- Comprehensive/whole farm planning
- Promote small-scale watershed plans

Data Collection

- Systematic—who and how
Appropriate measures
- Monitoring—volunteer programs including landowners

Emergency Management

- Protocol for private well and other emergency investigations
- Availability of CRP land for spreading in emergency
- Requirements to take manure in emergency
- Impediments to manure sharing
- Agency response team (DATCP-DNR)
- Increase portfolio of possible emergency practices (research)
- Documentation of emergency practices

Other

- Short-term storage approaches

Department staff will integrate/fuse the above-listed tools into the framework originally distributed to members. The revised framework will be distributed to members in the next few days with a homework assignment that members review the new document. If there are additions, they should get those to Richard Castelnovo by Tuesday, September 6. Contact DATCP or DNR staff if more information is needed. Staff and the co-chairs will then rework the framework and send it to members as another draft for review. Before it is discussed at the September meeting, members should determine how each tool fits under the column headings of “Effectiveness,” “Economic Impacts-Producers and Others,” and “Feasibility/Acceptability.”

Meeting Handout:

A copy of an article was distributed entitled “Manure Management Task Force Tackles First Issue” from the Agri-View. It is an account of the first Task Force meeting held July 18.

Future Presentation Ideas:

- Idaho’s manure spreading index
- Iowa’s model for manure haulers
- Discovery Farms’ use of p-index
- Research at Discovery Farms and Pioneer Farm

Locations for September and October Task Force Meetings: In order to make it convenient for members to attend meetings, the co-chairs suggested having the September 26 meeting in the Tomah area and the October 20 meeting in the Oshkosh area. If possible, field events will be added to these meetings. Staff will research location options.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.